

Miss Parish's memorandum.

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MEMORANDUM FROM MISS PARISH TO
MR. HOUSEHOLD, January 21. 1927

COPY

The points at issue are the granting of a diploma and the question of making it possible for secondary schools wishing to take up Miss Mason's work to get graduates with some knowledge of the Method.

The difficulty about graduates is that they are all specialists and treat their work from the point of view of the subject rather than from that of the children. The attitude of most secondary teachers towards us is that we are rather humbugs to claim that one person can teach so many subjects. Our answer is that Miss Mason trained her students to know how to put children in the way of learning many subjects and that therefore a specialists' knowledge of each was not necessary nor desirable for the teacher who is teaching children under 17.

There is a highly qualified graduate in one of our own P.N.E.U. schools where the Headmistress is a student (H.O.E.) She is nominally in charge of the elder girls (16 and 17), but she prefers to be the Form 11 mistress, teaching all round in elementary subjects and still keeping her specialist work with the older girls in class-room hours but living with them on much wider lines than she could otherwise have done if she kept to her own subject.

The necessity for a Diploma only arises when a teacher is forbidden to do the work involved without it.

In the case of graduates taking up Miss Mason's work, there is no restriction. Miss Mason gave her Method as a free gift to the world. Anyone may take it up and make what she can of it if she is unable to qualify herself in the way Miss Mason arranged, i.e. by the H.O.E. training.

The H.O.E. certificate is the P.N.E.U. Certificate, and a Diploma for the P.N.E.U. teaching "methods" apart from some insight into Miss Mason's method, of which the teaching is only one aspect, would be most confusing to the outside world, and might affect the status of the House of Education student.

In order to meet the Resolution proposed and to give graduates an opportunity of seeing at closer quarters something of what Miss Mason's Method is as a whole, Miss Parish would like to propose ~~that~~ as an experiment that the two or three vacancies available at the House of Education should be used by graduates for this purpose. They could come either for a year, as Miss Evelyn

Plumptre and Miss Butler are to do, or, and -this is the new proposal- a term's residence could be offered to six or to nine graduates as the case may be, to be followed by two terms' work in a P.N.E.U. school where the Headmistress is an Ableside student. Such a graduate would have an opportunity of seeing that, in order to teach children in Miss Mason's way, it is necessary to work at many subjects from the children's point of view rather than at one subject from the specialist's point of view. The two terms spent in the P.N.E.U. school could be given to varied work (not in one subject or in one Form) and such a graduate could then be placed on a P.N.E.U. list to be recommended by letter as knowing something of Miss Mason's method, but not receiving a diploma.

N.B. Miss Mason's reference to the House of Education Certificate shows that she considered teaching to be only one aspect of the training here: "The Certificate will be awarded only when the student shows herself possessed of -to adapt a phrase- the enthusiasm of childhood, which makes all work of teaching and training heart-service done to God".